

LEO Markham, once a player under Mike Keen at Watford, knocked his former boss's side out of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup with two opportunist goals for Aylesbury United in the second round replay on Tuesday night.

Markham, who started his senior football career with Marlow and has now progressed to the rank of Aylesbury's player manager, netted his first two goals of the season in the opening 21 minutes to end

Wycombe's hopes of a third Senior Cup in four years.

Aylesbury, playing in front of their own support, thoroughly deserved this victory and showed the skill and commitment that has made them one of the leading sides in the Southern League.

Wycombe really missed their chance in the first leg at Loakes Park a fortnight ago. Aylesbury should have been buried before half-time, but they came back to earn a 2-2 draw and on their own territory clinched a third round

tie at home to Burnham on Saturday January 31.

Wanderers paid the penalty for some slack marking early on and then a lack of mid-field control in the second half. Aylesbury have not won the cup since 1914 — and their determination to set the record straight was perhaps the crucial difference between the sides.

Markham gave his side the best possible start with a goal after nine minutes. The tall defender stole up unmarked into the penalty area and put

away Kevin Tilley's cross. Gary Lester got a hand to the shot but could not prevent it going into the net.

With Tony Price and Mick Holifield looking particularly sharp, Wanderers continually threatened the Aylesbury goal and the equaliser duly came within two minutes.

Tony Price's inswinging corner to the near post was backheaded goalwards by Steve Hardwick. Goalkeeper Keith Baker could only parry the shot straight to Steve Long, who headed in from close range for his third goal of the tie — he scored twice in the original match at Wycombe.

Confident

At this stage with both defences looking distinctly shaky, the large crowd seemed set for a feast of goals. But there was only one more — from that man Markham in the 21st minute.

Having scored his first goal of the season, Markham was clearly confident enough to make another adventure into the Wycombe penalty area. Once again no defender saw him coming, and he placed a 15 yard shot just inside the right hand post. The Blues defence must take the blame for this goal.

Despite forcing a series of corners Wanderers could make no further headway against a sound defence. They appeared to lose control of mid-field where Jim Jacobs and Bob Dell struggled on the heavily sanded surface.

Apart from an early chance to each side, the second half became something of a stalemate with Aylesbury content to sit on their lead, and Wycombe lacking the control and skill to threaten an equaliser.

Wycombe's one chance came right after the break when Price unleashed a fierce left drive from 20 yards which Baker could only block. Unfortunately for the Blues, the rebound evaded Terry Glynn who was following up fast.

Immediately afterwards tricky Aylesbury winger Gary Harthill broke upfield and with only the goalkeeper to beat, should have put the result beyond doubt.

But Lester came out and spread himself so well that Harthill's shot was blocked. This save will have given Lester immense satisfaction as he was a teammate of Harthill at Chalfont St Peter not too long ago.

By MICHAEL KNOX Aylesbury Utd 2, Wycombe 1

Glynn has looked far from sharp in recent games and it was no surprise when he was replaced by Ken Wilson midway through the second half — not that Wilson did any better.

Three minutes from the end Howard Kennedy, making a rapid return following an operation on his leg, came on for the struggling Dell. But that did little to change Wycombe's fortunes and once Paul Birdseye's left foot drive had soared inches over the bar, they knew they were doomed.

Aylesbury: K. Baker; K. Tilley, P. Mead, M. Martin, L. Markham, D. Jones, D. O'Reilly, D. Parratt (sub: C. Nash 67 mins), A. Jeffries, B. Holmes, G. Harthill. Sub: P. Youell (not used).

Wycombe: G. Lester; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, R. Dell (sub: H. Kennedy 87), S. Long, J. Jacobs, T. Glynn (sub: K. Wilson 69 mins), A. Price, M. Holifield.

Referee: R. E. Chaffer (Windsor).

Half-time 2-1. Scorers: Aylesbury - Markham 2 (9 mins, 21); Wycombe - Long (11).